

JACK DOYLE MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release Friday, March 17, 2000

DOYLE URGES COUNTY RESIDENTS TO COMPLETE CENSUS FORMS, MEET CIVIC COMMITMENT

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today urged residents County wide to respond to the 2000 Census, the first census of the new century and the basis of statistical information used by the federal government to determine federal funding throughout the upcoming decade.

"Census 2000 will be our nation's first civic event of the new century," said Doyle. "And to be fully successful because of the benefits that accrue to our community, we all must participate and demonstrate a concerted civic commitment to this important process."

The decennial census count is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, and every man, woman and child living in this country is called upon to participate. In explaining the importance of completing and mailing back the forms that will be delivered to mailboxes in mid-March, Doyle pointed out that census numbers are used to:

- Determine how communities throughout the United States get their fair share of more than \$185 billion in federal funds annually.
- Make sure that various populations identified in federal, state and local programs have an opportunity to be served fully.
- Decide how many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives go to each state to ensure that everyone is fairly represented in Congress. Census data also are used for determining voting districts at the state and local level.

Information gathered during the census is held in strictest confidence. All census workers take an oath to protect the privacy of the data collected and

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must obey the law (Title 13 U.S. Code) mandating that no one outside the U.S. Census Bureau can be given personal information. Individual responses cannot be shared with agencies or organizations at the federal, state or local levels and are held strictly confidential for 72 years. Only aggregate data are published for reporting purposes.

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